

FRANK PIERCE IS WITH BALLINGER

Utah Interesting Witness Before Ballinger-Pinchot Investigation Committee.

SECRETARY NEVER SOUGHT TO INTERFERE WITH HIM

Special Agent Christensen of Ogden Tells How He Got Into Office.

Special to The Tribune.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 9.—Frank Pierce of Salt Lake, assistant secretary of the interior, declared before the Ballinger-Pinchot investigation committee today that Secretary Ballinger never sought to interfere with him in any way in the conduct of the Cunningham coal cases; that the secretary never spoke to him about them after Mr. Pierce took charge of them at Ballinger's request until they considered Glavis' charges together in order to prepare the statement requested by President Taft in reply to Glavis.

"I am a very positive man," said Mr. Pierce, "and I do not like to be interfered with when matter has been turned over to me to decide."

Mr. Pierce was on the stand about thirty minutes. He proved an interesting witness. He did not conclude his testimony and will continue when the committee resumes next Friday.

What He Told Gov. Moore.

Mr. Pierce said that he told ex-Gov. Miles C. Moore of Washington, one of the Cunningham associates, at the first interview, that the claims could not be patented on the showing of the record. Mr. Pierce created some amusement when recounting the variety of public business that came under the direction of the secretary of the interior, he mentioned that he had been a member of the committee appeared surprised to learn that such things existed.

"Where are these 'bird preserves'?" inquired Chairman Nelson.

"In the town of Nelson, Alaska," suggested Representative William James, whereupon the laugh was on Mr. Nelson.

Mr. Pierce said that President Roosevelt established the "bird preserves," and that one of them was in Wyoming for Representative Mondell of that state, who had protested against the appointment as being without warrant of law.

How Christensen Broke In.

Special Agent Christensen who succeeded Glavis in office, was on the stand. He told the committee he was from Ogden, Utah, and was put into the land office through the kindly offices of President Roosevelt, who waived the civil service rules at the suggestion of Land Commissioner Benham in order to appoint him. Prior to his appointment he had been in the postoffice department. He later practiced land law before the interior department.

Brooks Continues Testimony.

Alfred H. Brooks, mineral expert of the geological survey, was on the stand when adjournment was taken yesterday afternoon. Mr. Brooks strongly favored the opening of the Alaskan coal fields and declared the territory is retrograding as a result of the government's policy of withholding the coal lands.

Before going into public session the committee opened the famous Glavis box from Seattle and Alaskan Christensen explained where he found the twenty-four missing letters.

Mr. Brooks continued his testimony. He related that the United States controlled from 60 to 70 per cent of the world's visible supply of coal and that at the present rate of consumption the United States would be exhausted in from 100 to 150 years. Somewhere between the estimates of 150 and 5000 years, he declared, the truth was to be found.

Figures Not Estimated.

"If the supply will last 5000 years we don't need to bother about conservation for 3000 years," remarked Representative Madison, "but if it will only last 100 years we are up against it."

Mr. Brooks said he thought there had been too much alarm as to the exhaustion of the coal supply. Other factors of power are coming into general use and this in time will decrease the use of coal. Improved methods of consumption also are resulting in the decreased use of coal.

As a general proposition the witness said he favored leasing the coal lands, but, he thought the Alaska fields were too far away for the leasing system to be employed to advantage. He thought such a price should be put on the lands in Alaska, however, as to prevent speculative holdings of the property and require its being worked.

Hot Cross-Examination.

Mr. Brandeis wanted to know if the witness did not think it was perfectly absurd that a man of Glavis' "undoubted ability," if he had wanted to "conceal" the papers would have put them in an uncovered box in the federal building. Christensen said he thought Glavis was capable of "most anything."

"You mean anything bad?" said Brandeis, "but did you ever hear of his doing anything foolish, except to send that letter of August 11 to President Taft?"

The witness could not think of anything. The attorney asked hundreds or more questions dealing with the witness's state of mind until Representative Madison suggested that he leave that line of inquiry and go into something else.

Representative Madison sought to show by questions that the interior department, by its instructions to Christensen to have a grand jury inquiry, was trying to bring about the indictment of Glavis of the editors of Collier's Weekly of Clifford Pinchot, O. W. Price and A. C. Shaw. This witness would not admit that this was the whole purpose of the inquiry nor that it was the desire of the interior department. He said the names of the men mentioned came up in his mind in connection with the investigation.

Pierce on the Stand.

When Christensen was disposed of, Frank Pierce, first assistant secretary of the interior, was called. Mr. Pierce began his service under Secretary Gar-

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field in November, 1907. He detailed all of the various duties of the secretary of the interior, saying:

"They are burdensome and manifold."

"When congress passes new legislation," he said, "and can't think of any one else to give the supervision to, they turn it over to the interior department."

Mr. Pierce said he was himself called upon daily to sign 900 to 1000 letters and documents. Many of these are naturally prepared in the various bureaus of the department.

At the time Mr. Ballinger came into office, the witness said, there were 30,000 suspended cases in the general office. Congress, on March 4, 1909, had appropriated \$1,000,000 to bring the work of the land office up to date.

Mr. Ballinger announced the intention of accomplishing this work, if possible.

In May, 1909, Mr. Pierce said ex-Governor Miles C. Moore of Washington came to see Secretary Ballinger.

Explains Attitude.

"The secretary let me in and said he had been consulted with reference to the Cunningham claims while he was in government service, and he wanted me to act on all matters connected with that case. I talked with Governor Moore about the cases."

He complained of the delay in acting upon the claims. I sent for Mr. Pierce, assistant to the secretary, who, in turn, sent for Glavis and we three discussed the cases in detail. That was the only time I ever talked with Glavis. The next day I told Governor Moore that a prima facie case appeared in the record and he could not have his patents. Mr. Moore was very much chagrined and said he would write to Secretary Ballinger that I had proved a disappointment and that he was going home with a message that would give scant comfort to his associates.

At this time Glavis had possession of the newly-discovered Cunningham journal.

"From that time to this," asked Mr. Verrees, "has Secretary Ballinger attempted to interfere with your direction or control of the cases or attempted to influence your judgment or action?"

"He positively has not."

Adjournment was then taken until next Friday morning.

PAYNE TARIFF MEASURE IS WARMLY PRAISED

By Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, April 9.—"We have crossed the Rubicon. For the first time in its history the Payne tariff act yesterday turned the tide and gave us a surplus instead of a deficit."

The speakers were Chairman Sereno Payne of the house ways and means committee and his chief lieutenants, John Dalzell of Pennsylvania and Henry S. Buntell of Illinois.

They were congregated in Mr. Payne's committee room, and they spoke in unison and most enthusiastically of the success of the new law.

"The surplus of receipts over expenditures at the close of business last night," said Mr. Buntell, speaking for the three, "was \$123,452. Subtracting from this the \$100,000 received on account of the corporation tax and which was a liability, we have a net surplus of \$23,452 in numbers, which is absolutely gilt edged."

"Considering that the Payne law did not go into effect until August 5, 1909, we consider that it has made a remarkable showing, the most extraordinary, indeed, ever made by any tariff law. It should be borne in mind," he continued, "that this surplus has been attained in the face of most extraordinary expenditures, principal of which was made on account of the Panama canal."

"During the period in question, \$22,000,000 has been paid out of the general fund for the construction of the canal and that will be reimbursed by bonds."

Entering into details to explain the method of his calculation, Mr. Buntell said that from July 1 to August 5, the date the Payne law went into effect, there had been a deficit of \$13,122,892, while at the close of business yesterday the deficit had fallen to \$13,000,240, leaving \$123,452.

Messrs. Payne, Dalzell and Buntell united in the prediction that the entire deficit would be wiped out before the end of the present fiscal year.

Mr. Payne entered into an argument to show that the increased cost of living could not be attributed to the tariff.

"In not a single instance," declared he, "can such an increase be traced to the tariff. Duties have not been advanced, but, on the contrary, in many instances have been reduced. This is especially true in the case of meats. The advance in prices of commodities has been due to the increased demand which, in turn, is attributable to the universal employment of labor at the old or improved wages."

"The tariff has not kept up with the demand."

WILL TAKE MORE MONEY FOR RIVERS AND HARBORS

WASHINGTON, April 9.—The report of the senate committee on commerce giving increases in the river and harbor appropriation bill over the amounts carried by the bill as it passed the house, was completed today and will be presented to the senate on Monday.

The next increase in cash appropriations was \$1,557,567; contract authorizations, \$3,627,675, or a total of \$10,000,242.

Some of the principal items of cash increases follow:

Texas, Galveston harbor, \$100,000; Galveston harbor, Texas City, \$50,000; Beaumont and Orange canal, \$200,000.

Missouri river, Kansas City to Fort Benton, \$125,000.

California, Los Angeles harbor, \$200,000.

Oregon, Coquille river, \$28,160; Siuslaw river, \$50,000; Willamette falls canal purchase of Oregon, \$300,000.

Washington, Grays harbor jetties, \$75,000.

Columbia river, to Bridgeport and Kettle Falls, \$50,000.

Alaska, St. Michael canal, \$43,000.

The increases in contract authorizations include:

Oregon, Siuslaw river, \$381,000.

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TAFT ASSUMING WARLIKE ATTITUDE

President Makes a Striking Speech at Banquet of League of Republican Clubs.

"NOT READING ANYBODY OUT OF THE PARTY"

"But by Their Deeds They Should Be Known," Is His Qualifying Utterance.

By Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, April 9.—William Howard Taft spoke tonight before the League of Republican clubs of the District of Columbia, not so much as president of the United States as in his capacity as titular leader of the Republican party.

Mr. Taft said he was glad the Republican party still lives; that he did not want to read any man out of the party, but that "by their deeds they should be known."

"Tonight," he said, "we are reading nobody out of the party. We want all of them in the ranks, and they have the opportunity to establish their claim to Republicanism by that which they shall do in both houses of congress by helping to enact the legislation, which is now before them."

The five hundred guests from all parts of the United States stood up and cheered.

"The president was in a mood to talk 'turbulence' but he said he had no room to them to make a 'keynote' speech."

"With all due deference to the distinguished members of the senate and house who surround me," the president continued, "I want to say that I think this is not the time for speaking except in the two houses of the legislature. This is the time for doing things."

Vociferously Cheered.

Here the president, who spoke with more vehemence than usually characterizes his after-dinner speeches, was again interrupted by a roar of cheers and shouts.

"Great, great. Rally for you: now you're talking; that's what we want to hear," were among the comments shouted from the floor of the banquet hall.

"The time has come," said President Taft, "for doing and voting and passing the measures which have been placed before this congress."

"It is the time for doing things, and, after congress has adjourned, the Republican party will have formed its lines of attack. Then it will be furnished with the weapons which we are going into the next contest."

"Tonight we are reading nobody out of the Republican party."

"We want all in the ranks, and all have the opportunity to establish their claims of Republicanism by that which they shall do in both houses of congress in helping to enact the legislation before them. 'By their fruits ye shall know them.'"

Here the president pounded the table and looked defiance, which he assured his hearers he did not feel.

"Those," he continued, "in the senate and house who stand for the legislation we seek in order to redeem the pledges of the party have the right to stand with the party as Republicans. If they don't, we won't quarrel with them. They have a right to their opinions. But we desire their aid as Republicans, and I do not wish to assume that they are not as sincere as I hope I am myself in Republicanism."

"The Republican party is not rigid in its demands. It is so broad and liberal that it permits differences of opinion."

President Taft chuckled in his inimitable way, as he spoke of the differences of opinion in the party. After the tumult of shouting had subsided the president continued:

Rap at the Insurgents.

"But when the evidence is shown that a member of the party does not desire the success of the Republican party, and is unwilling to redeem his party pledges, and takes a position which indicates he does not desire the success of the party, the label he bears is not Republicanism."

"We have a long way to go in congress, and I hope there is but a month or two left, but in that time much is to be done and much is to be shown as to the character and identity of those who belong to the party."

"No man has a right to read another out of the Republican party. He reads himself out if he is disloyal and if he cannot by his own works show his colors."

The president was talking straight from the shoulder. He emphasized his remarks with forceful gestures.

"You see, he continued, 'I am in no defiant spirit tonight.'"

At this the president laughed aloud at his own words, starting the chorus of laughter from his hearers.

"I want everybody in the ranks; I want the help of all Republicans, even if some may have slipped away a little. I want them all back to help in the grand old party—and I say this with all due deference to our Democratic friends—upon which the real progress of this country depends."

This was the signal for a long continued applause. The president waited while the demonstration which his remarks precipitated proceeded for several minutes.

"Why do I say that?" the president continued. "It is not that the Democrats are not patriotic or good citizens, but it is that the expression 'Demo-

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eratic party' does not mean a compact, cohesive body of men who can make progress in this country."

"I look forward with philosophic temperament to the threatened invasion of the hall of congress by the Democrats. I say 'threatened'—yes, threatened—in the imaginations of Champ Clark, Henry Watterson and others."

"I am confident that when once it comes, and has been for two or more years, it means a long lease of power to the Republican party."

"We want no schisms in the Republican party. The time will come after congress adjourns, when we shall have all redeemed our pledges, that we can argue out all the differences in the suffrage of fellow citizens on its record."

The president when he concluded was given a great ovation.

He was followed by Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, who took up the tariff bill, and the evening for speaking ended with the president had not spoken.

Longworth Speaks Plainly.

Representative Nicholas Longworth of Ohio made a strong plea for the tariff bill and the success of the Taft administration. With his serious discussion of the tariff he facetiously assaulted Edgar C. Snyder, president of the League of Republican clubs and toastmaster of the evening, for introducing him as a "son-in-law."

"I want to assure you," said Representative Longworth, "that being a son-in-law is not always a bed of roses. When a son-in-law says anything sensible the people say 'Your father-in-law told me so.'"

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TEDDY MAY AGAIN USE THE BIG STICK

Effect That Return of Former President Will Have on Politics Much Discussed.

WIDELY VARYING VIEWS OF PROMINENT STATESMEN

Friends of Taft Say Administration Will Be Indorsed, and Enemies Say Otherwise.

By Leased Wire to The Tribune.

WASHINGTON, April 9.—Will Theodore Roosevelt indorse President Taft's administration upon his return to America? This is the great national riddle which statesmen are trying to solve. Friends of the administration think he will; enemies think he will not; others confess ignorance. Here are some views gathered by the Tribune representative on the subject:

Senator Johnson of Alabama—I do not think Colonel Roosevelt's return will have any political effect at all. He could doubtless do a great deal if he wanted to, but I do not believe he would if he stands aside and allows the leaders to run things, even though they advocate and carry out his policies. None of us can tell what Roosevelt will do. I expect, as a matter of fact, he has not made up his mind yet.

Senator Jones of Washington—I am satisfied that Colonel Roosevelt will strongly indorse both Mr. Taft and his administration. There will be no embarrassment on that point at all. I think the indorsement will be strong and unqualified.

Senator Brown of Nebraska—I am not one of those who feel any dread over the return of Theodore Roosevelt. I recognize the influence he could exert in national politics if he saw fit to do so, but still I can see no cause for alarm. We all await his coming with interest, and there are some that await it with anxiety, but I am glad to say I am not in this class. It is without doubt within Colonel Roosevelt's power to split the Republican party, but there is no one who cares say he will do this.

Admits Teddy's Power.

There is no question in my mind that Mr. Roosevelt can take any position he desires, should he elect to become active in politics upon his return to this country. His influence will be minimized if he stands aside and allows the leaders to run things, even though they advocate and carry out his policies. None of us can tell what Roosevelt will do. I expect, as a matter of fact, he has not made up his mind yet.

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